

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-45 (Canceled)

46) (New) An emulsion (E) comprising a liquid or meltable hydrophobic phase (O) containing and/or consisting of at least one hydrophobic active material (A), said emulsion (E) being:

in the form of a multiple emulsion (Em) comprising:

an inner inverse emulsion (Ei) comprising said continuous liquid or meltable hydrophobic phase (O), an aqueous dispersed phase (Wi) and, at the interface of the two phases, at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible stabilizer (Di)

an aqueous or water-miscible outer phase (We), in which is dispersed the inner emulsion (Ei), by means of at least one dispersant and/or stabilizer (De), or

in a solid form (Es), which is water-dispersible as a multiple emulsion (Em) in which the outer phase (We) is aqueous, comprising

the inverse emulsion (Ei) dispersed in a water-soluble or water-dispersible solid matrix (M), and

the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) located at the interface of the inverse emulsion (Ei) and of the matrix (M) and optionally dispersed in the matrix (M),

said emulsion having the stabilizer (Di) at the interface of the two phases of the inner inverse emulsion (Ei) made of a water-soluble or water-dispersible polysaccharides

(PSA), whose mean degree of polymerization (DP) is at least 1.5, preferably at least 20 and most particularly at least 100, and the Brookfield viscosity, at 25°C as a solution at 1% by mass in water, is less than 20 000 mPa.s and optionally, ranging from 1 to 4500 mPa.s, and

said polysaccharides (PSA) also being free of lipophilic polyorganosiloxane substituent groups.

47) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the hydrophobic phase (O) is made of at least one organic or organosilicon material or of a mixture of at least one organic material and of at least one organosilicon material, which is liquid or meltable and insoluble in an aqueous phase.

48) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the active material (A) is made of at least one organic or organosilicon material, of a mixture of at least one organic material and of at least one organosilicon material, which is liquid or meltable and insoluble in an aqueous phase, of at least one solid or liquid inorganic material that is insoluble in an aqueous phase or of a mixture of at least one of said inorganic materials and of at least one of said organic materials and/or of at least one of said organosilicon materials.

49) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein said hydrophobic phase (O) and/or said active material (A) is an oil, a wax or a resin made of a linear, cyclic, branched or crosslinked polyorganosiloxane.

50) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 49), wherein said polyorganosiloxane is a nonionic or amino polyorganosiloxane.

51) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein said hydrophobic phase (O) and/or said active material (A) is made of an organic material selected from the group consisting of: C₁-C₃₀ carboxylic acid mono-, di- or triglycerides or mixtures thereof, plant oils, technical oils, especially cooked, blown or standolized linseed oils, sucroesters, sucroglycerides, C₁-C₃₀ alcohol esters of C₁-C₃₀ carboxylic or C₂-C₃₀ dicarboxylic acids, ethylene glycol or propylene glycol monoesters or diesters of C₁-C₃₀ carboxylic acids, propylene glycol C₄-C₂₀ alkyl ethers, di (C₈-C₃₀) alkyl ethers, mineral oils, naphtha oils, liquid paraffins, polybutenes, organic waxes having alkyl chains containing from 4 to 40 carbon atoms, animal waxes, plant waxes, mineral waxes, hydrocarbon-based waxes having from 4 to 35 carbon atoms, and synthetic waxes.

52) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the active material (A) is contained in the hydrophobic phase (O) and is made of one or more fragrancing molecules, an organic or organosilicon UV stabilizer, a hydrophobic bactericidal agent, solid polyamide capsules, silica particles or particles of another inorganic oxide or compound.

53) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein said polysaccharide (PSA) or its skeleton is a linear or branched, nonionic or ionic homopolysaccharide or heteropolysaccharide, having identical or different glycosyl units linked via $\beta(1-4)$ bonds, and optionally, $\beta(1-3)$ and/or $\beta(1-6)$ bonds.

54) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 53), wherein the hydroxyl functions of the glycosyl units are substituted and/or modified with nonionic or ionic groups other than lipophilic polyorganosiloxane groups.

55) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 53), wherein said polysaccharide (PSA) is selected from the group consisting of depolymerized galactomannans, optionally modified or substituted with nonionic groups; cellulose monoacetates with a degree of substitution of from 0.3 to less than 1.2, hydroxypropylcelluloses with a degree of modification of about from 0.2 to 1.5, carboxymethylcelluloses with a degree of substitution of from 0.05 to 1.2; dextrans optionally containing hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl or quaternized aminoalkyl groups, xyloglycans, arabinoxylans, and alkylpolyglycosides.

56) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the dispersed aqueous phase (Wi) presents a mass ratio of the mass of the dispersed aqueous phase (Wi) to the hydrophobic phase (O) ranging from 5/95 to 95/5 and optionally from 30/70 to 80/20.

57) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the stabilizer (Di) presents a ratio of the mass of stabilizer (Di) to the mass of hydrophobic phase (O) ranges from 0.1/100 to 500/100, optionally from 0.5/100 to 50/100.

58) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein said dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) is a hydrophilic surfactant, a hydrophilic polymer or a hydrophilic amphiphilic polymer.

59) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 58), wherein said dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) is formed from

- (a) at least one nonionic hydrophilic surfactant
- (b) at least one anionic hydrophilic surfactant
- (c) at least one cationic hydrophilic surfactant
- (d) at least one nonionic hydrophilic polymer
- (e) at least one nonionic hydrophilic amphiphilic polymer
- (f) at least one anionic hydrophilic polymer
- (g) at least one anionic hydrophilic amphiphilic polymer
- (h) at least one cationic hydrophilic polymer
- (i) at least one cationic hydrophilic amphiphilic polymer
- (j) or a mixture of at least two of said surfactants and/or polymers (a) to (d) above, which are compatible.

60) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 58), wherein the surfactant(s)

and/or polymer(s) (De) present in the outer phase (We) has a total content of

between 0.01% and 50% by weight, preferably between 0.1% and 10% and more

particularly between 0.5% and 5% by weight relative to the inverse emulsion (Ei).

61) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 58), wherein said hydrophilic polymer (De) is made of or comprises at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polysaccharide (PSA) (Di).

62) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the inverse emulsion

(Ei) and outer phase (We) comprising the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De), present a

mass ratio of inner inverse emulsion (Ei)/outer phase (We) comprising the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De), ranging from 50/50 to 99/1, optionally from 70/30 to 80/20.

63) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 1) to 17), wherein the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) and the inner inverse emulsion (Ei) present a mass ratio, expressed as solids, of dispersant and/or stabilizer (De)/mass of the inner inverse emulsion (Ei), ranging from 0.01/100 to 50/100, optionally from 0.5/100 to 5/100.

64) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) present concentration in the outer phase (We), ranging from 1% to 50%.

65) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the outer phase (We) is an aqueous phase.

66) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the outer phase (We) is an alcoholic or aqueous-alcoholic phase, optionally isopropanol or ethanol.

67) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the active material (A) contained in or constituting the hydrophobic phase (O) is a care or detergence agent for articles made of textile fibers, and the outer phase (We) is an aqueous liquid detergent formulation containing the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) formed from a mixture of at least one nonionic hydrophilic surfactant and of at least one anionic hydrophilic surfactant, optionally combined with at least one nonionic hydrophilic (amphiphilic) polymer.

68) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the active material (A) contained in or constituting the hydrophobic phase (O) is a care or detergence agent for articles made of textile fibers, and the outer phase (We) is a water-miscible nonaqueous liquid detergent formulation, containing the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) formed from a mixture of at least one nonionic hydrophilic surfactant and of at least one anionic hydrophilic surfactant, optionally combined with at least one nonionic hydrophilic (amphiphilic) polymer.

69) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the active material (A) contained in or constituting the hydrophobic phase (O) is a care agent for articles made of textile fibers, and the outer phase (We) is an aqueous liquid rinsing formulation, containing the dispersant and/or stabilizer (De) formed from at least one cationic hydrophilic surfactant and/or from at least one cationic hydrophilic (amphiphilic) polymer, optionally mixed with at least one nonionic hydrophilic surfactant and/or at least one nonionic hydrophilic (amphiphilic) polymer.

70) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the active material (A) contained in or constituting the hydrophobic phase (O) is an agent in the field of paints, and in that the outer phase (We) is a water-based paint.

71) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), wherein the active material (A) contained in or constituting the hydrophobic phase (O) is an agent in the field of cosmetics or body care, and the outer phase (We) is an aqueous cosmetic composition.

72) (New) The emulsion as claimed in claim 46), being in (Es) form and the solid matrix (M) is made of:

polyethylene glycols with a molecular mass of between 2000 and 100 000 g/mol, copolymers of ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or anhydride and of ethylenically unsaturated nonionic monomer, water-soluble or water-dispersible polypeptides of natural or synthetic origin, polyelectrolytes in acid form, belonging to the family of weak polyacids, with a molecular mass of less than 20 000 g/mol, optionally between 1000 and 5000 g/mol, polyvinylpyrrolidones with a molecular mass of less than 20 000 g/mol and preferably from 1000 to 10 000 g/mol, polyvinyl alcohols with a molecular mass of less than 100 000 g/mol, optionally having a degree of deacetylation of from 80 mol% to 99 mol%, water-soluble or water-dispersible film-forming amphotytic polymers, water-soluble or water-dispersible saccharides, osides or polyholosides, water-soluble or water-dispersible amino acids or amino acid salts, citric acid, fatty acids, urea, surfactants whose water-surfactant binary phase diagram comprises an isotropic phase that is fluid at 25°C up to a concentration of at least 50% by weight of surfactant, followed by a rigid liquid crystal phase of hexagonal or cubic type at higher concentrations, which is stable at least up to 60°C, water-soluble or water-dispersible alkali metal salts, alkali metal salts of saturated or unsaturated fatty acids, or mixtures of sodium acetate and of citric acid.

73) A process for conveying, to a substrate (S) in contact with an aqueous medium (B), at least one active material (A) contained in or constituting a liquid or meltable hydrophobic phase (O) of the emulsion (E) as defined in claim 46), by

placing said emulsion (E) with the substrate (S) in contact with the aqueous medium (B).

74) The process as claimed in claim 73), wherein said aqueous medium (B) has a volume sufficient to cause the destabilization and/or breaking of the emulsion (E) by dilution of said emulsion (E) and/or drying subsequent to the dilution of said emulsion (E), and the provision and/or release of the active material (A) contained in or constituting the hydrophobic phase (O), on the substrate (S).

75) The process as claimed in claim 74), wherein the emulsion (E) is a multiple emulsion (Em) comprising at least 70% by weight of inner emulsion (Ei).